

# CONFIRMATION – MONTHLY MEETING

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Session 1 – Notes

## Baptism

Baptism is a sign we belong to God. We belong to God whether or not we have been baptized, but when we are baptized it is as if there is a public party to celebrate God's acceptance of us. Whether our baptisms are our decisions or the decisions of our parents a proclamation is being made that we want to follow Jesus Christ and that the community of faith known as the church is our community too. Beginning September 17, 2006, Walnut Hills will use a beautiful baptismal font made by artist and pastor Ted Lyddon Hatten that has incorporated a cross cut from a beam of the New York City World Trade Center destroyed in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The cross was given to Walnut Hills by retired NYC firefighter Lee Ielpi in memory of his son Jonathan, a NYC firefighter who was killed while responding to help people trapped in the towers.

## Confirmation

Confirmation actually means "with strength" or "with firmness." Therefore when you are confirmed the community of faith known as the church surrounds you to stand with you "with strength" as you make a very important, very personal, decision about your faith journey. You confirm the choices that you made or that were made on your behalf at the time of your baptism. In baptism you accept God's acceptance of you. In confirmation you boldly proclaim that you choose to follow the example of Jesus Christ for your life. In the eyes of the church you are doing this as a full, adult person, therefore when you are confirmed you are received as a full member of Walnut Hills.

## What groups of people are members of Walnut Hills?

<u>Groups</u>	<u>"Language" they understand</u>	<u>We must offer them</u>
Clients	Hope	Compassion
Connectors	Mutuality	Belonging
Consumers	Excellence	Programs
Change Agents	Passion	Justice/Service Opportunities
Contemplatives	Quiet	Diverse Spirituality/Inner Growth
Co-Ministers	Vision	Leadership/Growth Opportunities

It is our hope that more and more of our members will strive toward co-ministry. However, we are all clients at some time or other and most of us experience familiarity with at least one other group.

## What will happen if you decide to become confirmed?

You will publicly be identified as a follower of Jesus Christ. This in no way is a statement against any other religion or faith journey. You will not be asked to renounce the tenets of other faiths. Rather you will be asked if you want Jesus' journey to be your journey. We will spend this year learning more about Jesus' journey and what that means. You will also become a full member of Walnut Hills United Methodist Church.

## Becoming a member of Walnut Hills United Methodist Church

In addition to choosing to follow Jesus and helping the world become part of the Kingdom of God you will become a member of this congregation. It is important to know the expectations this congregation has of its members.

Accepting our Mission Statement – “Walnut Hills – A Place to Call Home Where We are Welcomed and Sent Forth to Serve.”

Accepting our Core Values – Walnut Hills is a community

- Moving beyond the traditional, in touch with the lifestyle, needs and resources of people today.
- Not confined to a single neighborhood but encompassing the entire western suburbs and beyond.
- Giving itself away, knowing in giving itself does it find itself.
- Reaching out, affirming the individuality of each and our need to be needed.
- Wanting to learn of and offer itself to a God wrapped in mystery who comes to us in love.
- Inviting us to offer ourselves in witness and service where we are in our everyday lives.

Accepting our Next Big Thing Vision Themes –

- Interfaith
- Social Justice
- Spirituality

Accepting the Walnut Way and considering participation in a Walnut Way Journey Group –

- W – Worship in community
- A – Acts of service and justice
- L – Learning
- N – Non-judgmental way of life
- U – Unfolding spirit
- T – Tithing

